



2022

Annual Report 2022

TO THE BC COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE
MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERS

British Columbia
BCCGA
Common Ground Alliance



2022 Report to the BC Common Ground Alliance Members and Partners

Executive Director's Report

2022 has been an interesting and challenging year. The good news is the global pandemic that impacted BC is slowly receding. We have also seen one of the busiest excavation seasons on record. As a result, we have had to work on two levels. First, we have worked hard to support our members and help them navigate the final lock downs and other government restrictions. Second, in spite of these challenges, we maintained continuity in our core programming, safety campaigns and advocacy. Collectively we should be proud of our work during this challenging time.

From an operational perspective, we have taken the best from both the virtual and in-person operating models, resulting in increased engagement, reduced costs and improved performance. This is the last year of our extended strategic plan. We look forward to setting a new strategic path as we emerge from the pandemic.

While that is good news, like so many other non-profits we have suffered some membership attrition and a general reduction in revenue likely driven by the financial pressures generated by the pandemic. In the upcoming 2023 fiscal, we plan to make membership recruitment and revenue generation a top priority.

In regard to programming, we continue to be strong and united. You can be proud of your Common Ground Alliance – by reflecting on our response and how we have pulled together as an organization, we know we are making a difference and delivering on our mission.

This document lays out the high-level successes we have had in 2022. I encourage you to take the time to review the contents. The BCCGA will continue to grow and evolve in 2023, maintaining a clear provincial voice for improved safety and damage prevention in connection with underground infrastructure throughout the province.

We would be remiss not to thank our Board for their strong leadership and our volunteers for their dedication and heroic efforts during this most extraordinary time. Most importantly thank you for being our members. Our priority is — and will always remain — with you.

Dave Baspaly



Executive Director

Cheryl Hogg



Chief Operating Officer

STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

1

The BCCGA will work with its members, stakeholders and regulatory partners to increase awareness of BCCGA and BC 1 Call.

- Supported 8 standing committees, one project committee and one Taskforce.
- Conducted 3 media interviews – One on TV with Global News and three articles were published in various province-wide circulated newspapers
- Continued to advocate for One Call legislation in BC.
- Targeted organizations that have not yet joined the BCCGA or BC 1 Call.
- Reached out to both members and non-members to determine creative solutions and proposals for non-member companies and large non-member municipalities to join our respective organizations.



STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

2

The BCCGA will be a leader in setting standards for industry and will invest in ground disturbance awareness and education activities designed to improve underground safety for workers and the general public.

- Partnership with Preventable – the largest awareness campaign in BC Common Ground history. The objectives of the campaign were to:
 - o Educate homeowners and the general public about the dangers of hitting a buried utility line when digging during gardening, landscaping, or renovations;
 - o Educate foremen, supervisors, workers and contractors about the dangers of hitting a buried utility line when digging during gardening, landscaping, or renovations; and
 - o Drive online visits and phone calls to BC 1 Call.
- Delivered 2 in-person DigSafeBC sessions in Victoria and Abbotsford, with over 150 attendees.
- Supported a number of virtual Damage Prevention Town Halls with ICBA and VRCA.
- Successfully promoted Ground Disturbance 201 training in BC, in partnership with the Utility Safety Partners (formerly Alberta Common Ground Alliance) and Global Training.



DIGSAFE.CA



STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

2

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- Through the Pipeline Safety Committee, we worked with the Indigenous Research Council and the BC Construction Foundation to raise awareness of damage prevention and the excavator's responsibility.
- Continued to promote the locating curriculum developed in partnership with WorkSafeBC, the BCMSA (Municipal Safety Association), and BCCSA, (BC Construction Safety Alliance). In this respect, locator training sessions were held across BC, reaching hundreds of participants in 2022.
- Worked with our locator community in lobbying to maintain the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC)'s RULT designation.



The BCCGA will develop creative initiatives designed to support municipalities and excavators to integrate safe practice at all stages of the process continuum including: regulations, design, engineering, procurement, permitting, construction and maintenance/ monitoring

- Delivered a successful damage prevention campaign in April including promotional pieces and proclamations to mayors and councils.
- Had Safe Digging Proclamation read by a Minister in the BC Legislature.
- Delivered an ongoing virtual speaker series to industry, community and associations regarding safe digging practice and underground safety.
- Awarded the City of Excellence – Innovation Award to the City of Surrey in partnership with BC Municipal Safety Association.



The BCCGA will collect statistical information, disseminate safety information and develop initiatives to reach small contractors, homeowners, municipalities and First Nations communities.

- The Best Practice Committee supported the process to update the national publication which was released in the spring.
- Over 1,000 web visits to the best practice area on our website.
- Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) - The BCCGA generated the fifth of its kind DIRT report in partnership with the other Canadian Common Ground regions. The DIRT report is a statistical analysis of recorded hits to underground infrastructure that touches every aspect of damage prevention.



STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

5

The BCCGA will conduct government relations and advocacy activities designed to secure One Call legislation in BC as it relates to mandatory membership for owners/ operators of underground infrastructure and mandatory one-call for excavators/ ground disturbers.

- Actively worked with government to secure the annual Safe Digging Month Proclamation and educate MLAs about the importance of our non-partisan mandate.
- Attended virtually and in person the annual Budget Lockup and submitted advocacy document to the Select Standing Committee on Finance.
- Requested a meeting with UBCM to discuss the need for universal support of municipalities for Click or Call Before You Dig.
- Reintroduced Contractor breakfast series in Victoria and hosted a lunch attended by 64 Ministers and MLAs from both sides of the Legislature.
- Received introduction in the House while attending Question Period during our Safe Digging Month outreach.



Strategic Priority Six – The BCCGA will actively work to attract new members, generate resources and build partnerships with relevant stakeholders to effectively carry out its mission.

Members:

- Gained 8 new member companies from a variety of stakeholder groups.
- Overall, our network increased. Total membership now stands at over 400 members, with an excavation network of 10,000 ground disturbers.
- It is important to note that member and partner in-kind contributions exceed all dollars contributed.
- Coordinated the CCGA conference in Whistler, including planning speakers and topics, coordinating event logistics, acting as facilitators and panelists.

Resources:

- In 2022, revenues of \$207,642 are slightly higher than the budget of \$204,500. We also collected \$145,000 from our stakeholders in support of the Preventable campaign.

Partnerships:

- Partnership with BC 1 Call – we had a good year regarding an integrated and supportive partnership.
- Partnership with Preventable – largest awareness campaign in BC Common Ground history (detailed above).
- Connected with various stakeholder groups on a monthly basis to ensure they are up to speed on current events and are engaged in Alliance activities.

STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

6

cont'd

Partnerships: *Cont'd*

- Participated in over 20 virtual industry events such as AGMs, town halls and workshops to promote safety and generate awareness of the Alliance.
- Served on the Board of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) in the capacity of Treasurer, to ensure BC issues of importance are incorporated into the national agenda.
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